

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial SchoolOther names/site number: St. Francis Upper, Fratt School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 205 North 32nd StreetCity or town: Billings State: MT County: YellowstoneNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B x C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:
Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☒

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVAL: Italian Renaissance Revival, Collegiate Gothic
Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE, ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School is situated in the city of Billings in south-central Montana.¹ The Fratt School is three blocks west from the center of downtown Billings and three blocks north of the Burlington-Northern Santa Fe Railway right-of-way that passes through the city.² The school is located on the east side of 32nd Street between 2nd Avenue North and 3rd Avenue North. It stands in the middle of the west half of the block (Block 54) with asphalt playgrounds to the north and south. The entire school property (west half of block) is bounded by a chain-link fence (installed in 1963) on three sides and an alley to the east. Centered in the east half of the same block is a Catholic memorial garden with parking lots to the north and south. St. Patrick's Co- Cathedral stands directly east of the school on the next block.

¹ Hereinafter the Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School will be referred as the Fratt School.

² In Billings, the city blocks follow the railroad's orientation from northeast to southwest. For the purposes of this nomination, the southwest elevation will be described as the west, the southeast as the south, the northeast as the east, and the northwest as the north.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School, built in 1918-1919, is a distinctive two-story iron spot brick building designed by the prominent Montana architectural firm of Link and Haire and constructed by Gagnon & Company, a local Billings construction firm. The first Billings parochial school opened in 1911 but within a few years overcrowding revealed the need for a larger school. With funds provided by its benefactor, Kate Fratt, the Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School opened its doors in March 1919 and continuously served the children of the Catholic community of Billings and vicinity for almost 100 years. This impressive building stands alone in its setting and exhibits character-defining Italian Renaissance Revival elements finished with a Collegiate Gothic style front bay. The school interior retains its original circulation system with three stairwells, original room configurations and window fenestration; in fact, the interior has experienced few modifications over the years. Original historic elements include oak doors, transoms and trim throughout, high ceilings, blackboards and flooring.

Narrative Description

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School (one contributing building)

The historic Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School property occupies the west half (Lots 13-24) of a city block (Block 54) just west of Billings' downtown commercial area. The school stands on the center lots and faces west to North 32nd Street. The Fratt School stands as a two-story blond iron spot brick, 76-foot square building atop a tall daylight basement. Asphalt shingles cover the pyramidal roof, and rafter tails accentuate the roofline. Heavy, stepped, molded concrete, curved brackets support the deep open eaves. Roof features also include a corbelled brick exterior chimney located low and off-center to the north side of the east slope, a small hipped dormer centered high on the east slope, and a large front-gabled dormer that extends from high center on the west slope to the building's tall central entry bay. Formed concrete also constitutes the window sills, coping atop the entry bay's gable end, ornate entry surrounds and panel, a sloped belt course between the daylight basement and first story, and the water table. Throughout the building below the belt course, the daylight basement level protrudes slightly from the upper stories.

The west (front) elevation's central bay projects out from the wall plane and culminates in a tall gable. Concrete steps flanked by heavy concrete half-walls lead to the front entry doors at the first story. Three evenly-spaced narrow single windows appear at each level to either side of the entry bay. Symmetrically placed windows openings containing three single windows at each level complete the west elevation to either side of the central bay. The north and south elevations display mirrored fenestration patterns, each with a full-height centered entry bay flanked on both sides by classroom bays that contain four, evenly spaced, single window openings at each story, including the basement. Their central bays do not project and metal awnings set below the belt course shelter their ground level doors. A one-story, rectangular, flat-roofed, historic addition conceals most of the east elevation's basement level and the lower third of the first story. Above, the chimney and fire escape door to the north and the three windows filled in to the south disrupt the first and second story's symmetrical window pattern to the north. Except for the roof brackets, belt course, and water table, no additional concrete decorative

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

elements appear on the east elevation. Soldiered-coursed brick comprises the lintels and second story sills.

Originally, the school building boasted one-light, wood, double doors at each entry, wood-frame nine-over-one double hung windows, as well as multi-light transoms. Modern replacements throughout the original building fill original openings. They consist of aluminum-framed one-light doors, three-light windows that feature two fixed lights over one-lightoppers, and both one-light and multi-light fixed windows and transoms.

West (front) Elevation

The Fratt School's façade faces west to North 32nd Street. A wide concrete sidewalk leads from the city sidewalk to the centered eight-step concrete stoop. Coped concrete half-walls serve as side rails, and a modern metal pipe railing provides additional safety down the center of the stairway. Ornately molded concrete, meant to resemble sandstone, highlights the full-height, steeply-gabled protruding entry bay. These highlights include a narrow, quoined trim that surrounds the entrance and second story central window opening, flat hood moulds, shields, and a panel set between the doors and the window above. The panel, set off by raised hollow diamond and Moorish arch motifs, reads: "KATE FRATT MEMORIAL PAROCHIAL SCHOOL 1918" in Art Nouveau-inspired lettering. A small square shield, centered atop the second story central window's hood mould, displays a raised botanical pattern. A second shield is small, triangular, flat, and set near the top of the gable end.

One-light extruded aluminum double doors, topped by a segmentally-arched four-light aluminum-framed transom that originally held three multi-pane lights, serve as the building's main entrance. The second story central window originally housed three, six-light transoms above tall 18-light casement windows. Today, a pair of modern replacement units –each with two fixed lights over a one-light hopper - fill the space. The central entry bay also features single, one-light fixed replacement windows within original openings. These single windows appear at each level both north and south of center, and another appears centered in the gable end. The flanking windows feature thin, flat hood moulds and soldier-coursed flat-arched lintels. Wide, quoined concrete trim surrounds the gable-end window opening.

The west elevation displays symmetrically-fenestrated classroom bays to the north and south. Both north and south classroom bays contain evenly-spaced single windows with flat-arched soldier-course lintels; these windows occur at the basement, first story, and second story levels. At the roofline, the aforementioned brackets present in sets of two at the south and north ends of the bays, and singly between the windows. The basement windows are set within the water table, and do not have separate sills. Those at the first story do have concrete sills that rest atop the belt course, while the second story windows have concrete sills that protrude slightly from the elevation plane.

North and South (side) Elevations:

The symmetrical north elevation features a centered, flat entry bay defined by a double-door entry beneath a large four-light transom and sheltered by a shallow, metal, shed-roofed awning set between the transom and door frame. Thin, narrow, square metal posts support the awning and rest on concrete half-walls. Beneath the awning, red tile covers a one-step, shallow stoop.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Quoined concrete accented with a flat hood mould surrounds the transom at and above the belt course height. Concrete also comprises a small raised and stepped-square shield of floral design centered on top of the hood mould, and another panel centered above, between the entry and the second story window. A cross within a shield resting upon curled acanthus leaves decorates the panel. The north elevation entry bay's second story features a double replacement window in line with the windows across the classroom bays to the east and west. These windows replace the original multi-light transoms. Slightly raised soldier-coursing forms the double-window's flat-arch lintel and side trim, while a concrete hood mould and false-bracketed sill add additional embellishment. Fenestration on the classroom bays includes four single windows across each at every story. These windows display the same trim treatments as their counterparts on the west (front) elevation. At the basement level, the third window opening from the east measures the same width as the rest, but brick infill holds a narrower window assembly.

The south elevation mirrors the north elevation almost exactly. Differences are limited to the entry bay, where concrete, rather than red tile, finishes the stoop and a concrete cross tops the raised hood mould shield in lieu of the north elevation's mid-level shield. An elongated second-story six-light fixed replacement window rises from just above the first story's lintel level. The window opening features a hood mould, soldier-coursed lintel, and unbracketed concrete sill. Originally, concrete frames held two nine-light and 18-light transoms.

East (rear) Elevation:

A one-story historic addition built in 1918-1919 to house a boiler room and small apartment dominates the building's east elevation. Designed by Link and Haire in 1918, the nearly full-width, flat-roofed addition (37 feet east/west by 46 feet north/south) extends from the center of the original east elevation. The original east elevation's basement level remains visible to both the north and south. These north and south sides mirror each other, each containing a single pedestrian door within original openings in line with the openings across the upper stories. The south side holds a single three-light replacement window while the north side window is filled-in. Concrete steps lead down to the south door, set just below grade. A large one-light transom rests on top of the one-light south door. The transomless north door opening, at ground level, contains a solid door instead.

The east elevation's first story contains three evenly-spaced single replacement windows across the south classroom bay. The addition's parapet wall intersects with the elevation between the centermost two of these windows. The elevation's first-floor center bay contains three openings: two singles flanking a double. The first-floor north classroom bay, like the south bay, contains three single openings, with the addition parapet between the two centermost openings. The exterior chimney protrudes from the space between the north and central bay and rises all the way through the roofline.

At the second story, the east elevation presents three brick-infilled openings to the south, a double window flanked by singles at center, and two singles to either side of a transomed one-light pedestrian exit door installed in 1958. The door opens to substantial metal fire escape stairs that lead just past the addition roofline. The escape continues via a small landing to a drop-down metal stair assembly. Metal poles and brackets support the structure.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Addition

The historic one-story addition features a concrete water table, soldier-coursed lintels and sills, and some historic wood-frame windows and doors. Its south elevation features a wide opening to its west side. Plywood now fills the opening and holds a one-over-one aluminum window to the west, and an aluminum two-light storm that protects a one-light wood door to the east. A raised concrete stoop steps up to the door. The addition's south elevation also contains two evenly-spaced pairs of wood-frame, one-fixed-light-over-one-hopper window units within original openings at the center and to the east. The addition's east elevation displays a pair of one-over-one wood-frame windows protected by aluminum storms and set within a lintel-less and sill-less opening located off-center to the south. A one-panel wood door permits entry at grade-level center, within a wood-framed, linteled opening. To the north, another original, linteled opening contains a single nine-light wood window. Utility boxes and a tall grated metal counterweight shaft (that works in conjunction with the fire escape stairs) also appear on the elevation's north side. The north elevation has two linteled openings, and each contains space for a pair of one-over-one double-hung wood windows. Plywood replaces glazing on both of the east windows' lower sashes. The west windows exhibit one intact one-over-one window while the other now holds louvered vents.

Interior

Considering that the Fratt School is over 100 years old and functioned as a school almost continuously until 1917, it is amazing how the interior remains true to the original architectural design of Link and Haire. The first and second floors are basically unaltered from the original drawings while the basement level shows some modifications. The interior retains many character-defining features including original doorways, transoms, high ceilings, and window openings. All original two-panel oak doors with transoms are in place. The original oak woodwork trim of doors, transoms, baseboards, and window openings is intact. The circulation system retains three stairways. The primary west entry opens onto a vestibule with a high ceiling and a wide interior red tiled stairway that rises to the first floor, passing through an open oak framework, which delineates the entryway from the main hall. The framework consists of sidelights (sans glass) and overhead transom of four across and three down. Radiators are mounted high on both interior vestibule walls. The north and south entries also open into wide stairways that ascend and descend to the basement and first floor levels respectively. Similar to the front vestibule, both entries pass through oak frameworks with side lights (now filled in) and an overhead triple transom band (8 by 24 by 8). The south stairway continues to the second floor in a dogleg plan while the north does not.

The room placement on both the first and second floors remains the same as originally designed by Link and Haire. The first floor hall with its high ceiling presents a unified, almost symmetrical appearance with the three stairways, four classroom doors, and the accompanying transoms over the doors and cloakrooms. Entered from the hall through two-panel oak doors with transoms, four large classrooms (approximately 24 feet by 30 feet) sit at each corner of the building. The large classrooms display plaster walls and high ceilings where gangs of fluorescent light fixtures hang to illuminate the spaces. The rooms are distinguished by tall

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

window openings, four on the north and south walls, and three on the east and west. A cloakroom (approximately 6 feet wide) runs the entire length of the interior classroom wall. Two cased entrances on either end (minus doors) allow for ingress and egress. A window opening lights the room, hook racks line both cloakroom walls, and a built-in cabinet on the interior hall wall is topped by a single light transom. Other classroom details include wood trim attached to the plaster walls as chair rails define areas for blackboards (replaced with white boards) and displays. The floors are covered with carpets over original wood flooring.

Situated between the northeast and southeast classrooms is the principal's office, a narrow space that consists of two rooms divided by an oak framework with side lights and overhead multi-light transom.

Orientated around its central hall, the second floor retains its original room configurations and character-defining features as the first floor. Here, however, are three classrooms (30 feet by 20 feet) and a large assembly room (30 feet by 41 feet) in the northeast corner. A small room is situated between the northwest and southwest classrooms and exhibiting the same room division as the principal's office on the first floor.

The basement bears less resemblance to the original plans. Instead of a central hall, it features a long hallway with door openings that lead into four rooms (24 feet by 30 feet) at each corner, similar to the first floor. The basement also has three bathrooms, one each for boys and girls and one for staff. The east addition is reached from the hallway and passes through the carpenter's room. The addition consists of a three-room unit with bath to the south and an open boiler room to the north.

Garage (one noncontributing building)

Standing immediately north of the school near the property boundary stands a recently constructed garage. The rectangular garage (30 feet x 45 feet) is covered by a front gable roof topped with asphalt shingles. Yellow composite clapboard siding clads the walls. The south façade faces toward the school and features two overhead metal garage style doors – one standard sized and one oversized. A mandoor is located in the west elevation with a small light mounted above it. The building holds no windows. The garage doors are approached by a small concrete pad.

Integrity

The Fratt School retains a high degree of integrity that strongly conveys its historic appearance and character. The school sits in its original location. After 100 years, however, the setting is now commercial rather than residential as when the Fratt School was built in 1918-1919. The Fratt School is the only building within the entire block where it stands alone, centered on the west half of the block.

The school retains strong integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. It retains its original massing, roof configurations and fenestration. No significant exterior alterations to the building have occurred, except for the introduction of replacement windows and doors around 2000. All original openings as doors and windows remain intact in their original locations and sport their original dimensions. All of the elaborate detailing at the front bay is undisturbed.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

The Fratt School exhibits its character-defining interior features and spaces ranging from the original circulation system and room configurations to chair rails and baseboards. As previously stated, the first and second floors are basically unaltered from the original Link and Haire architectural plans. All halls and classrooms retain original door and transom openings and oak doors and oak trim at all openings. Other details include high plaster ceilings and plaster walls, cast-iron radiators, chalkboards, and cloakrooms. Only two rooms have been modified with the introduction of a false wall, one in the assembly hall on the second floor and the other on the first floor. On the second floor, trim has been painted white only on the interior of the classroom doors and on the window trim. Flooring throughout is covered with carpet over the original wood flooring (visible at a few places).

The basement level does not follow the original Link and Haire plans as the bathrooms are now in different locations. However, it retains four original classrooms, all similar to the upper floors, which exhibit the same historic interior features.

The Fratt School retains strong integrity of association and feeling. It continues to hold a strong historic association with the Catholic community of Billings. Built as the first parochial school in Billings, the school, under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, educated thousands of children from Catholic families for almost 100 years. A 2019 open house hosted by the Fagg family, the new owners, revealed the importance of the school to the community when it brought hundreds of men, woman, and children back to the Fratt School to reminiscence about their school days.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1919-1970

Significant Dates

1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Link & Haire (architects)

Gagnon & Company (builder)

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School (Fratt School) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its historic contribution to Catholic education in Billings, Montana. Opened in March 1919, the Fratt School, with the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth as teachers, served the children of the Catholic population of Billings for decades. The school offered elementary education throughout its existence and secondary education for a few years in the 1940s. The Fratt School provided a “religious-based instruction coupled with a high-quality education.” Furthermore, “combining both an intellectual and spiritual education was a priority for Catholic families” in Billings as evidenced by the continuous strong enrollment to the Fratt School for almost 100 years.³ The Fratt School stands as the embodiment of the important role education held in the Catholic community of Billings.

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School is equally significant under Criterion C at the local level as an outstanding well-preserved example of the architectural skill and innovation of Link and Haire Architects, one of the leading architectural firms in Montana in the early twentieth century. The architecturally-designed Fratt School reflects a seamless blending of the architectural styles of the Italian Renaissance Revival distinguished with an understated Collegiate Gothic entrance. The interior retains original finishes throughout the building. The Fratt School architecture presents a high distinctive visual character and represents the rich architectural tradition of Link and Haire to create unique, beautiful, and functional buildings.

The period of significance begins with the completion of construction and first year of use of the Fratt School in 1919 and ends in 1970, the end of the historic period.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The following historic context is taken from National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Northern Hotel by Jon Axline and Joan Brownell (listed June 12, 2013, NR #13000369)

Yellowstone River Valley

The Billings area was well-known to Native Americans for thousands of years and has an unusually high density of pre-contact archaeological sites. Nearby Alkali Creek provided a natural travel corridor between the Yellowstone River and the bench lands leading to the Musselshell and Missouri rivers. As early as 4,000 years ago, the area’s aboriginal inhabitants ran bison off the sandstone cliffs bordering the Alkali Creek valley and processed the animals on the creek bottom. During the historic period, both the Blackfeet and the Crow Indians

³ Wisconsin Historical Society, National Register of Historic Places nomination for St. Peter’s Catholic School, Eagle River, WI, <http://wisconsinhistory.org/> (accessed March 15, 2020).

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

frequented the area. This region, however, is generally recognized as being within Crow territory.⁴

The first recorded Euro-American description of the Billings area is generally credited to William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. In July 1806, Clark and eleven others, including Sacajawea and her newborn son, Pomp, undertook to explore the Gallatin and Yellowstone Valleys on their return journey. On July 24, 1806, the party passed through the area now occupied by Billings. Clark was clearly awed by the abundant wildlife living along the Yellowstone River.

Saw emenc [sic] number of deer, elk and buffalow on the banks. Some beaver . . .
. [For] me to mention or give an estimate of the different Spcies [sic] of wild animals on this river particularly Buffalow, Elk, Antelopes and wolves would be incredible.

Clark also noted the presence of a recently abandoned Crow Sun Dance lodge on a large island in the Yellowstone. The captain detailed Nathaniel Pryor, George Shannon, Richard Windsor, and Hugh Hall to drive the company's horses overland on the south side of the Yellowstone, while the rest of the party proceeded downriver in cottonwood canoes to rendezvous with Meriwether Lewis at the mouth of the Yellowstone.⁵

Even before the Lewis and Clark Expedition returned to St. Louis in September 1806, it met men ascending the Missouri River with the intention of trapping beaver in Yellowstone River Country. East of Billings, Missouri Fur Company factor Manuel Lisa established a small trading post on the Yellowstone River at its confluence with the Big Horn River in 1807. Although abandoned in 1810 because of Indian opposition to the fort, a succession of trading posts followed between 1821 and 1876. The Yellowstone River near the mouth of Alkali Creek was well-known to fur trappers and traders from 1807 onward. In 1822, Blackfeet Indians ambushed and killed Missouri Fur Company trappers Robert Jones and Michael Immel along with five others near the mouth of Alkali Creek.⁶

The US Army's successful campaign against the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho during the winter of 1877 made the Yellowstone Valley in this area attractive for settlers and entrepreneurs. In 1877, Perry W. McAdow, his brother William, Henry Frith, and former trapper Henry Keiser established a small settlement on the eastern edge of the Clark's Fork Bottom of the Yellowstone and named it Coulson after the owners of a steamboat line they hoped to attract to the area. The McAdow brothers established a store, sawmill, and hotel at the site. Eventually the community boasted a brewery, school, newspaper, post office, and Chicago Jane's notorious brothel. The settlement flourished as a river port and stagecoach station until about 1882, when replaced in popularity by the newly created town of Billings. Coulson was a tough town as

4 Personal communication with Steve Aaberg, 19 October 2006.

5 Gary E. Moulton, Ed., *The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark: Over the Rockies to St. Louis*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002), 217-219.

6 Merrill G. Burlingame, *The Montana Frontier*, (Helena: State Publishing, 1942), 47, 48; Mark H. Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1961), 86-88.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

evidenced by Boot Hill Cemetery (24YL755) (situated where Alkali Creek emerges into the Yellowstone Valley), which contains the remains of at least forty individuals who died violent deaths in the settlement in the 1870s.⁷

The City of Billings

As the Northern Pacific Railway (NPRR) pushed its way up the Yellowstone in 1881, railroad land speculators scouted in advance for suitable sites for towns to serve the line. In the summer of 1882, the NPRR's Minnesota & Montana Land & Improvement Company (MMLI) platted a city on an alkali flat north of Coulson. The company christened the city Billings after former NPRR president Frederick Billings. The Northern Pacific reached Billings in August 1882.

The MMLI platted the new town of Billings in the classic Northern Pacific railroad townsite design, with the railroad corridor at the center, flanked by two parallel streets fronting the railroad and a systematic grid pattern of streets both north and south of the railroad tracks running perpendicular and parallel. Billings became known as the "Magic City" due to its surprisingly rapid growth in a relatively short period of time. The primary business district developed on the north side of the tracks, first along Montana Avenue that parallels the railway and gradually further northward.

Billings steadily grew through the late nineteenth century, becoming the economic hub for the surrounding region. By the end of 1882, it boasted a population of 1,000 people. By 1900, its population had grown threefold to 3,221 people.

Billings was fortunate in being located at the right place at the right time. The city boomed during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The fertile river bottoms made the Yellowstone Valley around Billings a paradise for farmers, especially after the completion of the Big Ditch (24YL0664) in 1883 and the Billings Bench Water Association Canal (24YL0161) in 1904. In 1905, the US Reclamation Service (USRS) established the Huntley Irrigation Project about fifteen miles northeast of Billings. The project was among the first and most successful of the USRS's early western projects.

Billings quickly became an important trading and transportation center, especially after the arrival of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad in 1894 and the Great Northern Railway line from Great Falls in 1908. In 1909, the federal government enacted the Enlarged Homestead Act. This act, which provided 320 acres to any person willing to improve and farm it, attracted thousands of dry land farmers to south central and eastern Montana between 1909 and 1918. With this influx of homesteaders, Billings prospered as a trade center and transportation hub with

⁷ Brown, *Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, 61-63, 220, 356; Don Spritzer, *Roadside History of Montana*, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1999), 356, 357; Myrtle E. Cooper, *From Tent Town to City: A Chronological History of Billings, Montana, 1882-1935*, (Billings: The Author, 1981), 2, 12, 15, 19.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

access to three transcontinental railroads. Billings also profited by the presence of a Great Western Sugar refinery in the city that processed sugar beets harvested in the surrounding area.⁸

Although hard hit by the collapse of the Homestead Boom by 1918-19 due to drought and the resulting economic depression during the early 1920s, Billings survived because of its status as a transportation hub on the northern Great Plains. Not only was it served by three railroads, but it also depended on interstate highways US Highway 10 and US Highway 87 to provide better access to markets throughout the region. The depression years of the 1930s affected Billings, like the rest of Montana. While everything slowed during the depression, Billings businesses began to recover by 1935.

Oil and gas developments in the surrounding region helped maintain Billings' economy during hard times. In 1929, the Yale Oil Company constructed a refinery at Billings and manufactured gasoline, which was sold throughout the region. The discovery of rich oil fields in southern Montana and northern Wyoming also provided a steady source of revenue to the area, especially after Carter Oil and Conoco built refineries in the "Magic City" in the 1940s. The discovery and exploitation of oil in the Williston Basin in North Dakota and Elk Basin in Wyoming in the 1950s had a profound effect on Billings as it became a significant refining and pipeline center.⁹

The entrance of the United States into World War II curtailed activity in Billings. However, it appears that Billings benefited in its position as the transportation network and trade center of the region during the war years. The post-World War II economic boom in Billings saw the city's population grow over 30% from 23,261 people in 1940 to 31,724 residents in 1950. Billings became the oil and gas capital of the region by the early 1950s. Along with the three oil refineries, the five oil companies had division offices in Billings, and 43 oil companies maintained district offices in the "Magic City." The per capita and family annual average income in the Billings trade area was above the national average. The boom caused by the oil industry fueled the expansion of Logan International Airport and the city's medical facilities, and contributed to a significant increase in retail sales in the area. The city claimed a population of 65,000 in 1957.¹⁰

The continued expansion of the oil facilities in the 1960s and 1970s and the city's proximity to Interstates 90 and 94 made it an even larger transportation hub with a trade port and many other distribution and trans-loading facilities. The city also benefited from the presence of two major

⁸ Spritzer, *Roadside History*, 359, 368; Cooper, *Tent Town to City*, 29, 42; Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*, revised ed. (Seattle: University of Washington, 1991), 238.

⁹ Carroll Van West, "Good Times, Bad Times," in *Stories from an Open Country*, ed. William L. Lang (Billings, MT: Western Heritage Center, 1995), 123-126.

¹⁰ Spritzer, *Roadside History*, 359; Stevens and Redman, *Billings A to Z*, (Billings: Friends of the Library, 2000), 88, 92; Anneke-Jan Boden, *Billings: The First 100 Years*, (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Press, 1982), 139-140; "Montana, Its Growing Says the Census," *Montana Treasure Magazine*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (August 1950), 2; "Billings, The Magic City," *Montana Treasure Magazine*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (August 1950), 6; Sue Hart, *Billings: Montana's Trailhead*, (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Press, 2009), 79-80, 82; "Dynamic Billings: New Oil Center of the Northwest," *Out West Magazine*, Vol. 15, No. 7 (August 1954), 16-17, 22-23;

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

hospitals, a significant commercial business district on the west side of town, and proximity to eastern Montana and northern Wyoming. In 1996, historian Michael Malone wrote:

The new Billings economy continues to rest upon traditional energy, agricultural marketing, and tourist travel bases; for instance, the city's three refineries now process well over five million barrels of crude oil daily and have an annual payroll of over \$165 million.¹¹

The diverse economy and its strategic location have combined to provide Billings a relatively steady rate of growth, and its evolving significance as Montana's largest metro area has confirmed the dreams of the city's founders.

Early Billings Public Schools and the Beginnings of Billings Catholic Schools

The first school in the Yellowstone Valley was held in a log building in 1879 at the Newman Ranch south of present-day Billings. Soon after the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway in 1882 and the establishment of the Billings townsite, the town fathers created a Billings school district in 1883, followed quickly by the construction of the first permanent public brick school in Billings on 4th Avenue and North 29th Street, which eventually became known as the Lincoln School. Ten years later, as Billings continued to grow, a second brick school opened in 1893 that became known as the Washington School, on the corner of 30th Street and 1st Avenue South (south of the NPRR tracks). By the turn of the century, the Billings school student census listed 628 students ranging in age from 6 to 21 years. Several substantial new schools appeared during the first decade of the twentieth century, two near downtown Billings (Jefferson and McKinley Schools) and the third, Garfield School, south of the NPRR right-of-way. By 1913 Billings boasted eight schools with the first true high school opening the same year.¹²

Regardless of the availability of public schools, the Catholics of Billings strove for a parochial school as soon as their parish was firmly established. The small Catholic population in Billings was first served by Jesuit priests who held services in private homes, and later, a rented space. In 1887, the "few but fervent Catholics" of Billings constructed their first Catholic Church called Saint Joachim, located on 33rd Street and 1st Avenue North (southwest of the Fratt School). The first resident pastor, Reverend Francis Van Clarenbeck, led the parish from 1897 to 1904. Efforts for a "larger church more centrally located" began in 1905 under the supervision of Pastor Thomas F. Stack. Designed by Link and Haire Architects, Saint Patrick's Church, located on the corner of 3rd Avenue North and 33rd Street, was dedicated in 1908.¹³

11 Michael P. Malone, *Montana: A Contemporary Profile*, (Helena: Montana Magazine, 1996), 47.

12 Jordan Smith, National Register of Historic Places nomination for Garfield School, Billings, MT, on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT (listed); *Billings Gazette*, "Old School: Early Billings prized education," August 12, 2012; Kathleen Olson and Kara Sumner, "The History of Billings Senior High," <http://senior.billings.k12.mt.us/senior/history> (accessed March 10, 2020); *Billings Gazette*, "Teaching the Three R's Here in Early Days was Carried on Under very Difficult Circumstances," January 4, 1931.

13 "Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish Billings Montana," typed manuscript, unknown author, no date, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

In 1910, Reverend Father Cyril Pauwelyn came to St. Patrick's Parish. Father Pauwelyn arrived in Montana in 1885 and for many years, ministered to a vast territory. He served as pastor in Miles City, Great Falls, and Glendive before coming to Billings. He was instrumental in establishing the first parochial school in Billings that came under the guidance of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.¹⁴

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, a religious order dedicated "to teach youth, care for orphans and minister to the sick," first came to Helena, Montana in 1869 at the request of Jesuit priests and there established St. John's Hospital, St. Vincent's Academy, a boarding school for non-Indian girls, and an orphanage. The Sisters served Montana's health care needs by establishing hospitals across the state before 1900: St. Joseph's Hospital in Deer Lodge, St. Mary's Hospital in Virginia City, St. James Hospital in Butte, and St. Ann's Hospital in Anaconda.¹⁵

Billings became the sisters' "last frontier." The rapid growth of Billings around the turn of the century demonstrated the imminent need for a hospital. Billings' civic leaders called on the Sisters and in February 1899, St. Vincent's Hospital officially opened under their direction. Since the sisters also were dedicated educators, the Catholic community turned to them to direct Catholic education for their youth.¹⁶

Reportedly Father Pauwelyn asked the Reverend Mother of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth to provide sisters to open a parochial school in Billings and she agreed to send two sisters. In anticipation of the sister's arrival, Father Pauwelyn directed the remodeling of Saint Joachim Church into classrooms for the school. On August 28, 1911, St. Patrick's Parochial School opened its doors with Sister Mary Louise Madden and Sister Mary Barbara Sammon as teachers. The school began with four grades enrolling 48 pupils on the first day. A fifth grade was quickly added. The following year saw enrollment grow to 102 pupils, a sixth grade added, and a third sister to teach. By 1916 the school held classes for grades one to eight with four sisters on the staff.¹⁷

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Enrollment increased until there was no room to spare and a new building was urgently needed. Fortuitously, within Father Pauwelyn congregation was a very wealthy widow who became

14 For further information on Father Pauwelyn, see Tom Stout, *Montana: Its Story and Biography*, volume 2, (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1921), 215.

15 For further information about the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, see their web site at <http://scls.org/>; Ellen Baumler, "Early Social Service Was Women's Work," *Women's History Matters*, June 3, 2014; "Faith Inspired Early Health Care," *Women's History Matters* February 13, 2014, <http://montanawomenshistory.org/> (accessed Marcy 18, 2020).

16 Ibid; Sue Hart, *A Call to Cure, 1889-1998 Saint Vincent Hospital and Health Center, the first 100 years of service*, (Billings, MT: Saint Vincent Hospital and Health Center, 1998).

17 "Kate Fratt Memorial School Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish Billings, MT," typed manuscript, unknown author, no date, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

interested in the plight of the parochial school. Katherine (Kate) Fratt became one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest, woman in Montana after her husband David Fratt died in 1912.

David Fratt was one of the most prominent stockmen in central Montana. He arrived in Virginia City in 1864 and after briefly engaging in mining, he turned to stockgrowing. By 1882 he moved to the Musselshell River Valley with his home ranch at Lavina although he held ranching properties across the state. David and Kate Fratt lived in Billings where he served as stock commissioner for Yellowstone County for over twelve years and held positions with the Montana Stockgrowers Association. Mr. Fratt was involved in numerous business endeavors in Billings, including organizing and serving as an officer for both the Yellowstone National Bank and the Merchants National Bank of Billings.¹⁸

David Fratt married Katherine Sheehan in Miles City in the late 1880s and they resided in Billings after their marriage. Kate Fratt was born in Illinois in 1853 and according to several accounts, met her husband there. After her husband's death, Kate Fratt divested much of his ranch properties and soon became recognized for her philanthropy, with gifts to St. Vincent's hospital and Rocky Mountain College.¹⁹

One of her largest gifts was guided by her faith and influenced by her pastor, Father Pauwelyn. At Christmas Day service at St. Patrick's Church in 1916, Kate presented her donation of twelve lots for a parochial school in downtown Billings to St. Patrick's Parish.²⁰ The *Billings Gazette* praised her generosity and encouraged all "wide-awake, loyal citizen of Billings" to "join with the Catholics in their sincere thanks to Mrs. Fratt as they will realize that every good school means an advancement and a valuable asset to the city."²¹

Kate reportedly chose the location herself at 32nd Street North, a block west from St. Patrick's Church and occupied by a municipal skating rink. Plans called for "ample room for beautiful grounds and a well equipped school building equal to the fine public schools for which Billings is so justly famous. This parochial school will make Billings doubly attractive for all those who like to combine the religious and secular education of their children."²²

The following month, in January 1917, Kate formalized her gift by transferring a warranty deed to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Great Falls for "Lots numbered thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-four in block numbered fifty-four of the original town, now city, of Billings, In

18 Tom Stout, *Montana: Its Story and Biography*, volume 2, (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921), 931-2; *Billings Gazette*, "David Fratt Dies Suddenly," March 20, 1912; "David Fratt is Laid to Rest," March 22, 1912.

19 Unfortunately, only limited and often conflicting information about Kate Fratt has been discovered; *Billings Gazette*, "Start Campaign for Poly Funds," October 13, 1914; "Raise Big Sum For Hospital," June 16, 1915.

20 Rev. Pauwelyn reportedly married David Fratt and Kate Fratt (formerly Sheehan) in Miles City while he was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish from 1887-1901; "Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish," typed manuscript, unknown author, no date, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT.

21 *Billings Gazette*, "Mrs. Kate Fratt Presents Site for Billings Parochial School," December 31, 1916.

22 Ibid.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Yellowstone county, Montana . . .” Furthermore, “this deed is made upon the express condition that the lots in question are to be used as a site for a parochial school, and if not so used, the title thereto will revert to the grantor...”²³

Kate Fratt finalized her last will and testament that same week and died almost a year later on January 1, 1918. Her will provided gifts to organizations in Billings including St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, St. Vincent’s Hospital, Billings Polytechnic Institute, and the Young Women’s Christian Association.²⁴

Most importantly, her largest bequeath read as follows:

I give and bequeath the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for a Roman Catholic Parochial School at Billings, Montana, to be known as “The Kate Fratt Parochial School.” Not more than fifty thousand dollars of said sum is to be used in the construction and equipment of said school. The balance of said sum is to be held in trust by the trustee hereinbefore mentioned, and the new income derived therefrom is to be used for the support and maintenance of said school.²⁵

It was not, however, until May 1918 when the prominent architectural firm of Link & Haire of Helena and Billings announced the completion of the plans for the Fratt school. The architectural plans called for:

. . .a three-story structure of pressed brick and concrete, measuring 76 by 77 feet and with a boiler room in the rear measuring 28 by 44 feet. The roof will be of tile and all floors and stairways of terrazzo. The building will be thoroughly modern and fireproof, and particular attention has been paid to lighting and ventilation.

The first floor, which will be about two feet below the natural ground level, will contain two class rooms, lunch room, carpenter shop and lavatories. On the second floor will be four spacious class rooms, with ample hall space and cloakroom facilities. On the third floor will be two class rooms, a large assembly hall and chemical laboratory.

The ventilation system outline in the plans provides for a complete change of air in all rooms every 10 minutes.

23 Warranty Deed, Kate Fratt to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Great Falls, January 24, 1917, Deed Book 60, Page 146, Clerk and Recorder’s Office, Yellowstone County Courthouse, Billings, MT

24 Last Will and Testament of Kate Fratt, January 25, 1917, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT. She also left a sizable sum to build a business block in downtown Billings to be called the Fratt Block in memory of her husband.

25 Ibid.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Over the main entrance will be a tablet bearing the insignia, "Kate Fratt Memorial."²⁶

Gagnon & Company of Billings was awarded the construction contract in June. Excavation started the first week in July 1918 with a tentative completion date by the end of the year. However it was only "near" completion in the middle of March "at a cost of about \$65,000" and declared by the local newspaper to be "thoroughly modern and gives to Billings one of the most elaborate and completely equipped denominational schools in the state."²⁷

Although still not quite completed, the Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School opened its doors on March 3, 1919, called by the *Billings Gazette* "one of the finest institutions of its kind in the northwest." While the ground (basement) floor and first floor were finished, work continued on the third floor as this "floor will be reserved for high school classes and will not be equipped at this time." The ground floor consisted of lunch rooms, cloak rooms, gymnasium, and rooms for sisters. The first floor held four large classrooms and offices. Father Pauwelyn held a requiem high mass for Kate Fratt on the Sunday before the school opened but the school was not formally dedicated by Bishop Lenihan of the Great Falls Diocese until May 16, 1920.²⁸

The *Billings Gazette* described the new building as:

. . . a splendid example of European architecture. The building is entirely fireproof and the many large windows allow plenty of sunshine and air. The rooms are spacious and well equipped and a large assembly hall on the first floor is a feature of the building. The basement complete lunch rooms, lockers, gymnasium and other necessities have been installed.

The Building is about 75 feet square with additional boiler building in the rear. It is constructed of tan brick and has a red tile roof that makes it prominent among the other buildings. On each side there is open space for playgrounds. The children are taught by the Catholic sisters and there are eight grades which follow consistently the teaching in the public school in the city.²⁹

A parochial school is defined as a school maintained by a church. The Fratt School fell under the jurisdiction of St. Patrick's parish of Billings within the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

26 *Billings Gazette*, "Helena Firm is given Contract Built Hospital," May 18, 1918; "Work Starts on Fratt Memorial \$50,000 School," June 30, 1918.

27 *Billings Gazette*, "Work Starts on Fratt Memorial \$50,000 School," June 30, 1918., "Excavation Begins on the Fratt Parochial School," July 6, 1918; "Fratt Memorial School to Open Monday Morning," February 26, 1919; March 16, 1919.

28 *Billings Gazette*, "Fratt Memorial School To Open Monday Morning," February 26, 1919; "Bishop Dedicates Memorial School," May 17, 1920.

29 *Billings Gazette*, "Fratt Memorial School to be Dedicated Today," May 16, 1920; "Bishop Dedicates Memorial School," May 17, 1920.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

(formally Diocese of Great Falls). The parish was responsible for the financial burden of the school to obtain necessary funds for both the church and the school, often through levy or tithes.

The Fratt School opened its doors to 170 pupils on March 3, 1919. Sisters Mary Dolores (principal), Mary Clara, Mary Berard, and Mary Bernice served as the teachers for all eight grades.³⁰ Enrollment at the Fratt School grew gradually over the first few years. By 1931, the enrollment increased to 285 pupils and the student population continued to increase throughout the 1930s.³¹

The Fratt School, as all parochial schools in Montana (33 such schools by 1933), was required to follow regulations stipulated for public school instruction by the state. By A 1931 third grade report card lists the following classes given: deportment, effort, neatness, Christian doctrine, reading, spelling, language, grammar (changed to phonics), arithmetic, penmanship, singing, drawing, geography, physiology (changed to Health), U.S. History, Civics (changed to Gym), and agriculture. Curriculum changed slightly over the years for different grades.³²

In the early 1940s, nine sisters divided the grades among themselves with a sister for each grade, plus a music teacher. Father Gergen managed the athletic programs including football, basketball, and general playground activities for all students.³³

In the fall of 1943, Fratt School opened with a high school unit for ninth grade with plans to expand to a full four-year curriculum.³⁴ Father Gergen, pastor of St. Patrick's parish, explained that the high school will "insure a select, exclusive student body thoroughly trained in catholic principles and scholastically prepared to continue their work in college, business or vocational fields."³⁵ Twenty-seven ninth graders, with two from Wyoming, occupied two rooms on the main floor while the first and second graders moved to the basement.³⁶ One room held "modern high school equipment" including a "\$300 general science laboratory table" and \$200 in other equipment. Thirty "new hardwood student desks" filled the second room. The school even created a social room on the ground floor where "pupils may gather during recess," and where

30 The sisters first briefly resided in the previous school building at Saint Joachim Church. Then, for a few years, they resided on the second floor of the Fratt School until 1922 when they moved to St. Vincent's Orthopedic School.

31 "Kate Fratt Memorial School Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish, Billings, MT," typed manuscript, unknown author, no date, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT; *Billings Gazette*, "Fratt Memorial School To Open Monday Morning," February 26, 1919; "Fratt School Begins with 285 Enrollment," September 9, 1931.

32 These report cards are located in a filing cabinet at St. Francis School, Billings, MT. The latest report card viewed was 1946.

33 *Billings Gazette*, "Fratt Memorial School," August 31, 1941; "Fratt School Was Built With Memorial Funds," August 21, 1941.

34 The Fratt School unsuccessfully attempted to open a high school in the early 1920s.

35 *Billings Gazette*, "Billings Schools To Open Tuesday," Sept 5, 1943.

36 One early article reports they constructed two new classrooms but it seems more probable that they just divided a room.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State

“they can eat their lunch, play phonograph or occupy themselves at the several tables installed.” With the addition of another grade in the second year, the high school occupied the entire second floor.³⁷

Following the prescribed curriculum as defined by the State of Montana, St. Patrick’s high school in the Fratt School offered “a full freshman program” the first year with usual courses plus courses in “art, physical education and glee club” with sewing as an extra-curricular activity. The following year brought 55 students and classes expanded to include band and voice, modern languages, Spanish, mechanical drawing, arts and crafts, home economics and biology.³⁸ With the opening of the high school in the Fratt and subsequent new classes, the faculty increased to eleven sisters. By 1946, approximately 150 students registered for the high school. In 1947, the high school moved to the newly constructed St. Patrick’s Central High School.³⁹

The opening of the new high school in 1947 allowed the Fratt School to once again accept more children for grades one through eight. The opening (also in 1947) of a second parochial school, Little Flower School of the Little Flower Parish, further relieved pressure on the Fratt School when 100 pupils who attended Fratt School in 1946 enrolled in the Little Flower parochial school. The Fratt School population still climbed over 560 in September 1947 and children had to be turned away.⁴⁰

In 1948, September saw about the same number of students registered at Fratt School where the “maximum allowable was 580.” The school added four sisters to the teaching staff and began teaching phonics to the 1st and 2nd graders. However, regardless of the declared maximum allowable enrollment, Fratt School enrolled 600 pupils in 1948 and 630 students in 1949 and still turned children away. The year 1950 saw a ‘record enrollment’ of 646 students the first day of classes, which ultimately reached the “phenomenal” number of 700 enrolled.”⁴¹

Fratt School increased teaching staff as the school population continued to grow each year. By 1950, twelve sisters taught first through eight grades. The sisters each taught a grade with a few sharing two grades between them. The year 1949-1950 also saw the first lay person, Mrs. Archie Miller, assist Sister Mary Noreen with the first-grade class. This began the gradual staff reduction of Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth at the Fratt School. By 1955, the school had ten

37 *Billings Gazette*, “Educational Institutions Open; New St. Patrick’s High Draws 27,” September 8, 1943; “Parochial School Opens Today,” August 29, 1944.

38 *Billings Gazette*, “Fratt Parochial School to Launch Ninth Grade . . .,” August 29, 1943; “Parochial School Opens Today,” August 29, 1944.

39 *Billings Gazette*, “Parochial School Opens Today,” August 29, 1944; “St. Patrick’s High School Gains,” September 4, 1946; “Classes Begin in New School,” September 9, 1947.

40 Fratt School had to turn away about 100 children because “classes were filled to capacity.” *Billings Gazette*, September 4, 1947.

41 “Kate Fratt Memorial School Saint Patrick’s Co-Cathedral Parish, Billings, MT,” typed manuscript, unknown author, no date, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT; *Billings Gazette*, “Billings Schools Open This Week,” September 6, 1948; “Central School Enrollment Up,” September 8, 1950.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State

sisters and three female lay teachers on staff, decreasing to seven sisters and three female lay teachers in 1959.⁴²

By the early 1960s, Billings boasted four parochial schools (Fratt, St. Pius X, Little Flower, and Holy Rosary) totaling nearly 1800 pupils with Fratt School enrollment still high with around 470. The rest of the decade saw Fratt's school population level out from 1964-1968, then rise to 535 pupils in 1968-69 and gradually decrease to below 300.⁴³

A 1971 promotional brochure provides an overview of the Fratt School.

Academically Fratt compares favorable with the public system and rated above the national average in standardized testing. Up-to-date teaching methods with an effective audio-visual program including listening center for math and reading. Teachers are assigned to specialized teaching areas in grades 5 through 8; grades 1 through 4 have self-contained classrooms with some teacher exchange. Eastern Montana College students work in Physical Education and remedials reading in grades 1 through 6. Tuition is \$50 per family with a \$20 per student book fee.⁴⁴

The same brochure reported a student body of 250 with a maximum allowable of 300. The ratio of children to teachers was 28 to 1 and the Sister-Lay teacher ratio was 5 to 5. Religious programs permeated "every aspect of school life." The school supported numerous programs for athletics, music, scouts and health.⁴⁵

Architectural Significance

For the Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School, the architectural firm Link and Haire present a seamless blending of two architectural styles: the Italian Renaissance Revival and the late Collegiate Gothic Revival. It was not uncommon for this architectural firm to combine different popular styles of the period and the Fratt School is an impressive example of their design expertise.

The Fratt School strongly reflects the Italian Renaissance Revival Style in its formal appearance and imposing scale. The Italian Renaissance Revival appeared in the late 19th- early 20th century near the end of the Victorian era. First "popularized" on the East Coast, "this elegant style is seen mostly in up-scale, architect-designed buildings, such as mansions and public buildings." The style is "classically-inspired," returning to the designs of the 16th century Italian Renaissance. The Fratt School features many of the primary elements of the Italian Renaissance

⁴² *Billings Gazette*, "Holiday Ends, Schools to Open," September 8, 1949; "Central School Enrollment Up," September 8, 1950.

⁴³ *Billings Gazette*, "1,800 Attending Catholic Schools," August 31, 1963; Catholic Schools in Billings Enrollment 1964-1987, on file, Billings Catholic Schools Foundation, Billings, MT.

⁴⁴ "Fratt Memorial School," brochure, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Archives, Leavenworth, Kansas.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Revival style with its brick masonry construction, low-pitched hipped roof, symmetrical façade, cubical massing, and deep overhanging eaves with decorative brackets.⁴⁶

Link and Haire further distinguished their Fratt School design by incorporating the Collegiate Gothic Revival style into its entry façade. The Collegiate Gothic Revival style, an early 20th century architectural revival utilized primarily for educational buildings, gained its early popularity at Ivy League Schools like Princeton and Yale in the eastern United States. These elite universities strove to “emulate Oxford and Cambridge” after the style was first demonstrated by the “Pembroke,” a Bryn Mawr College building in 1894. This “interpretation of Gothic so inspired other schools” that it spread across the county at universities and school buildings. The style “emphasized mass and Gothic highlights on fundamental building elements.” For the Fratt School, Link and Haire present the Collegiate Gothic Revival style in its full height protruding entrance bay defined with quoined trim and the ornate decorative panel over the gently arched entryway.⁴⁷ The vertical emphasis culminates with a steep gable topped with a tall concrete pinnacle.

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School stands as a historic landmark to the work of Link and Haire within the City of Billings. Its unique architectural design strongly reflects its historic appearance and character. For almost 100 years, the Fratt School directed by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth educated the Catholic youth of the community. It is hard to imagine all the students (with reportedly 700 pupils in 1950) passing through the halls and into the classrooms for so many years. As Jan Haider exclaimed, “There’s so much history in that [Fratt] building. When you walk through it, you can feel it.”⁴⁸ The Fratt School closed its doors in 2017, last serving as an “Upper” school for 7th and 8th grades. The Fratt School is now under the ownership of Fagg Family Properties, a Billings family instrumental in the development and continued vitality of downtown Billings for decades. Their plan is to preserve and renovate the building to serve Billings for another hundred years.

46 “Renaissance/Renaissance Revival Architectural Style,” <http://buffalooah.com> (accessed March 25, 2020); Lesley Gilmore, personal communication with author, March 20, 2020; “Italian Renaissance Revival Style 1890-1930,” <http://phmc.state.pa.us> (accessed March 20, 2020).

47 Tim Urbaniak, “McMullen Hall,” National Register of Historic Places nomination, on file, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT; Collegiate Gothic Style 1890-1940, <http://buffalooah.com> (accessed March 25, 2020); Robinson Meyer, “How Gothic Architecture Took over the American College Campus,” September 11, 2013, <http://theatlantic.com> (accessed March 25, 2020).

48 *Billings Gazette*, November 2, 2019.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

John G. “Gus” Link and Charles S. Haire⁴⁹

John G. “Gus” Link and Charles S. Haire, two of Montana’s great architects, literally helped shaped Montana’s built landscape. In all, they designed over a thousand buildings, bringing architectural sophistication to dozens of Montana communities, both large and small.

John Gustave Link was born in Bavaria in 1870 and studied design at the Royal Academy at Lindau. After he graduated at seventeen, he emigrated to the United States, where he practiced architecture in Denver and St. Louis before moving to Butte in 1896 with his wife, Martha Welling. He moved to Billings in 1904.

Charles Sidney Haire was born in Ohio in 1857 and taught school while honing his drafting and design skills. Draftsmanship work for the railroads brought him west. In 1889, he moved to Helena where he married Frances Corwin and developed architectural plans for a local real estate company.

In 1906, the two established Link and Haire, Architects, which quickly grew into one of the most prominent architectural firms in Montana. They opened an office in Billings in 1906 and also had offices in Butte, Helena, Miles City, Missoula, and Lewistown. In addition to providing plans for a third of the state’s county courthouses, Link and Haire designed schools, churches, hospitals, office buildings, libraries, and private homes. The firm also contributed to the 1912 expansion of the state capitol.

Link and Haire made numerous contributions to the built environment in Billings, both individually and in partnership, designing both residential and commercial buildings. Some of the most notable buildings include St. Vincent’s Hospital, Parmly Billings Library, the Stapleton Building, the Montana Power Company “Electric” building, the Hart-Albin Building, and St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.

Charles Haire died in 1925 and Link formed his own architectural firm in Billings, joined by his son Elmer F. and others. Mr. Link died in 1954.

⁴⁹ Most of the following is taken directly from JLink and CHaire educational panel, Montana Historical Society “Outstanding Montanans,”

<http://mhs.mt.gov/Portals.education.Montanans.JLinkAndCHairePanel> (accessed March 25, 2020).

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allison. Amorette. National Register of Historic Places nomination for Holy Rosary Hospital, Miles City, MT. On file, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

Axline, Jon, comp. *Montana's Historical Highway Markers*. Helena: Montana Historical Society, 2008.

Axline, Jon and Joan L. Brownell. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Northern Hotel, Billings, MT. On file, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

Babcock, Albert L. *An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley*. Spokane: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1907.

Baumler, Ellen. *Women's History Matters*. <http://montanawomenshistory.org>

Billings Catholic School. "Kate Fratt Memorial School Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish, Billings, MT" and "Saint Patrick's Co-Cathedral Parish, Billings, MT." On file Administration Office, Billings Catholic Schools, Billings, MT, no date.

Billings Gazette, 1910-1970. <http://newspapers.com>

"Billings, The Magic City." *Montana Treasure Magazine*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (August 1950).

Billings, Montana: The Sugar City of the Northwest. Butte: Dawson Publishing Co., 1908.

Boden, Anneke-Jan. *Billings: The First 100 Years*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Press, 1982.

Brown, Mark H. *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1961.

Buffalo Art and Architecture. Architectural Styles. <http://buffalooah.com>.

Burlingame, Merrill G. and K. Ross Toole. *A History of Montana*, three vols.

Cooper, Myrtle E. *From Tent Town to City: A Chronological History of Billings, Montana, 1882-1935*. Billings: The Author, 1982.

Eastern Montana Catholic Register. "Golden Jubilee." December 1954. On file, Archives, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Great Falls, MT.

Gilmore. Lesley. Personal Communication with author, March 20, 2020.

Hart, Sue. *A Call to Cure, 1889-1998 Saint Vincent Hospital and Health Center, the first 100 years of service*. Billings, MT: Saint Vincent Hospital and Health Center.

_____. *Billings: Montana's Trailhead*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Press, 2009.

Hart, Sue, Donna Davis, Ken Egan, Jr., and Joyce Jensen, eds. *Writers Under The Yellowstone County Anthology*. Billings, MT: Artcraft Printers, 2001.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Hudson, John C. "Main Streets of the Yellowstone Valley: Town-Building along the Northern Pacific in Montana." *Montana the Magazine of Western History*. Vol. 35 (4) (Autumn 1985).

_____. *Plains Country Towns*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985.

Jensen, Joyce. *Pieces & Places of Billings History: Local Markers and Sites*. Billings, MT: Western Heritage Press, 1994.

Justo, Chere. "Tales Spun along the Tracks: A History of Downtown Billings." Prepared for Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board, Billings, MT, 1998; available at www.billings.com.billings.html.

Kappler, Charles J. compiler and editor. *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*. 2 vols. Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1904; available at <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/>.

Kliwer, Waldo O. "The Foundations of Billings, Montana." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. 31 (July 1940): 255-83.

Lang, William, ed. *Stories From An Open Country Essays on the Yellowstone River Valley*. Billings, MT: Western Heritage Press, 1995.

Malone, Michael P. *Montana: A Contemporary Profile*. Helena: American Geographic, 1996.

Malone, Michael P., Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang. *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*. Revised edition Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991.

Meyer, Robinson. "How Gothic Architecture Took Over the American College Campus." *The Atlantic Magazine*, September 11, 2013, <http://theatlantic.com>.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

Miller, Joaquin. *An Illustrated History of the State of Montana*. 3 vols. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co.

"Montana, Its Growing Says the Census." *Montana Treasure Magazine*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (August 1950).

Moulton, Gary E., editor. *The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark: Over the Rockies to St. Louis*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide.
<http://phmc.state.pa.us>.

Reich, James M. *Billings*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, *Billings, MT*. 1923 (revised 1949), at <http://sanborn.umi.com>.

Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald. *A History of Montana*. 3 vols. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1913.

Smalley, E.V. "The New Northwest." *Century Magazine* 14 (September 1882).

Smith, Jordan. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Garfield School, Billings, MT. On file, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

Spritzer, Don. *Roadside History of Montana*. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1999.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State

Stevens, Karen D. and Dee Ann Redman. *Billings A to Z*. Billings: Friends of the Library, 2000.

Stout, Tom. *Montana: Its Story and Biography*. Three vols. Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1921.

Urbaniak, Tim. National Register of Historic Places Nomination for McMullen Hall. On file, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Billings, MT.

Van West, Carroll. *Capitalism on the Frontier Billings & the Yellowstone Valley in the Nineteenth Century*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1993.

_____. *Images of Billings A Photographic History*. Billings, MT: Western Heritage Press, 1990.

_____. "Coulson and the Clark's Fork Bottom." *Montana the Magazine of Western History*. Vol. 35 (4) (Autumn 1985).

Wright, Kathryn. *Billings The Magic City and How It Grew*. Billings, MT: The Reporter Printing & Supply Co., 1953.

Yellowstone County. Deed Record Books, Office of Clerk and Recorder, Yellowstone County, Yellowstone County Courthouse, Billings, MT.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 45.781410 | Longitude: -108.512150 |
| 2. Latitude: 45.781660 | Longitude: -108.511690 |
| 3. Latitude: 45.780940 | Longitude: -108.511000 |
| 4. Latitude: 45.780710 | Longitude: -108.511490 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School is located in the original townsite of Billings in T1S R26E S3, Lots 13-24 Block 54. The property is bounded to the north, south and west by a chain-link fence and to the east by a north-south trending alley. See attached map Section 9 page 34; reference to the aerial view map confirms that boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

T1S R26E S3, Lots 13-24 Block 54 is the legal boundary description associated with the Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Joan L. Brownell and Kate Hampton (exterior architectural description)
organization: for Fratt Family Properties, LLC.
street & number: 800 Granite Tower, 222 N. 32nd St.
city or town: Billings state: MT zip code: 59101
e-mail: _____
telephone: _____
date: 4/2020

Property Owner: Fagg Family Property's, LLC
Street & number: 800 Granite Tower, 222 N. 32nd St.
City or town: Billings state: MT zip code: 59101
e-mail: rfagg@icloud.com
telephone: (406) 855-0244

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

1. **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
2. **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
3. **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

See Continuation Sheets

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

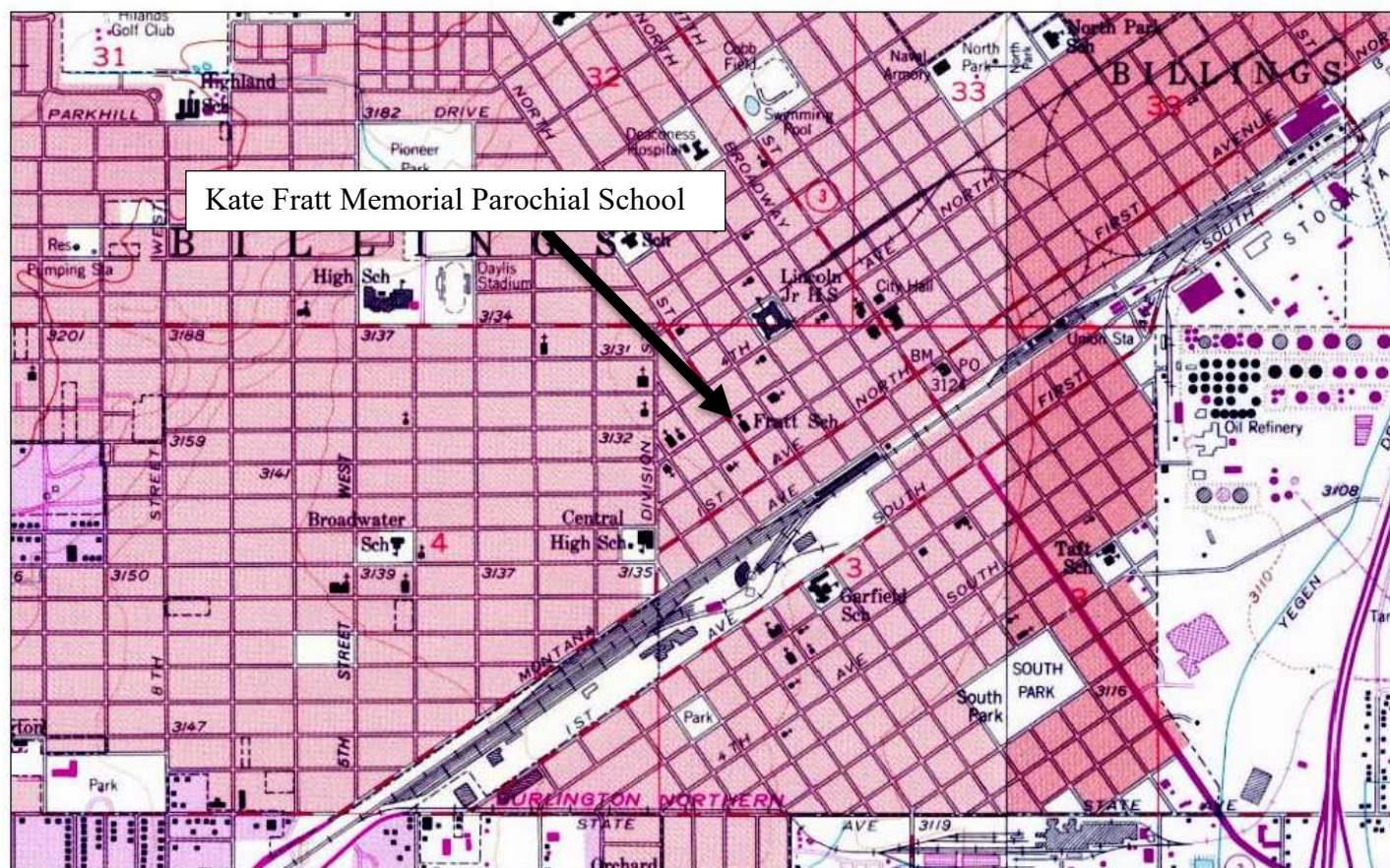
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State

Maps, Aerials, and Blueprints



Map created using the Digital Atlas April 3, 2020
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Montana State Library - Digital Library

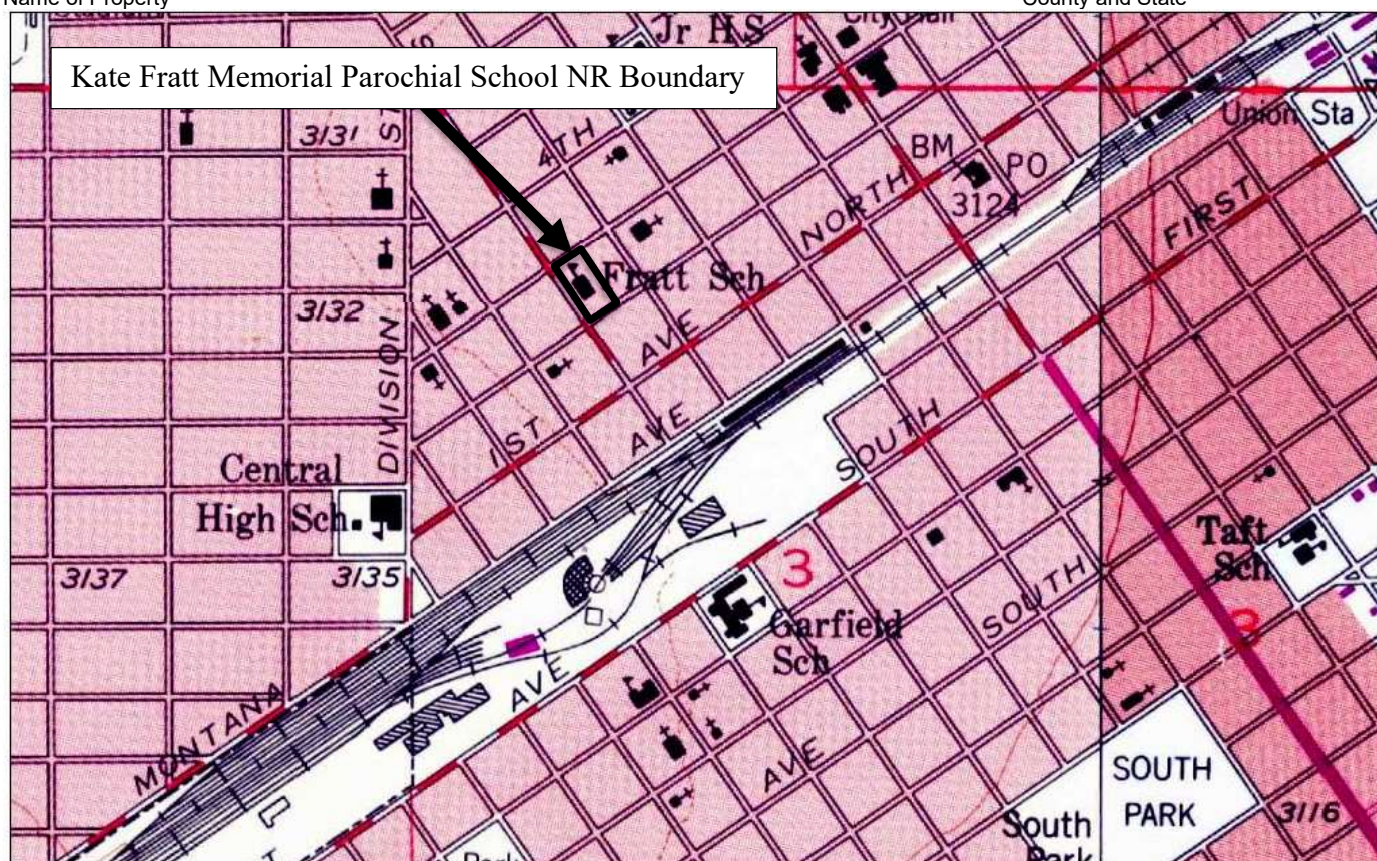
Location of Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School, found on the Billings West 7.5' quadrangle map.
T1S R26E S3, Lots 13-24 Block 54.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Map created using the Digital Atlas April 3, 2020
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Location of Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School, found on the Billings West 7.5' quadrangle map.
T1S R26E S3, Lots 13-24 Block 54.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

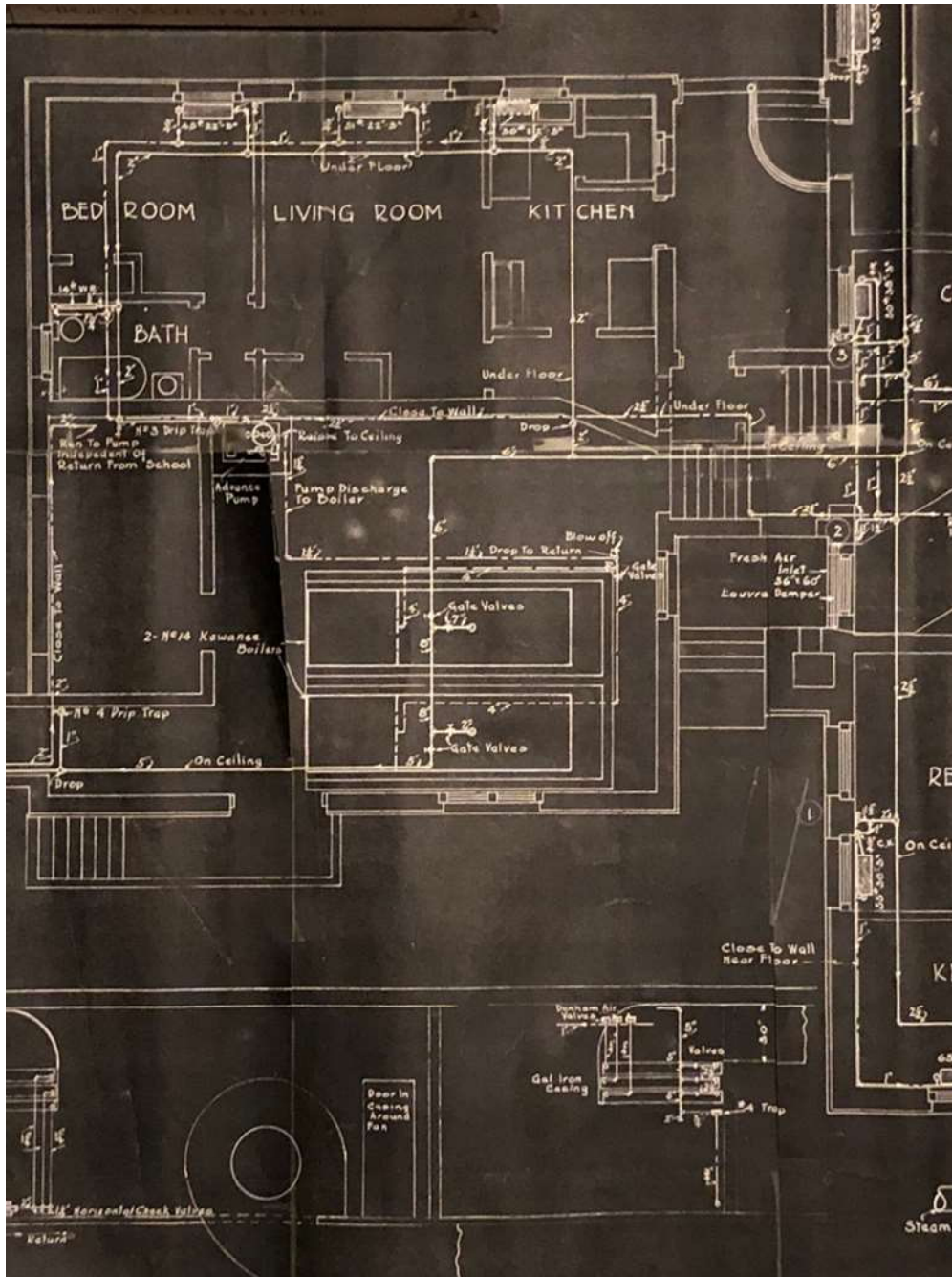
County and State



Aerial View of location of Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. T1S R26E S3, Lots 13-24 Block 54.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

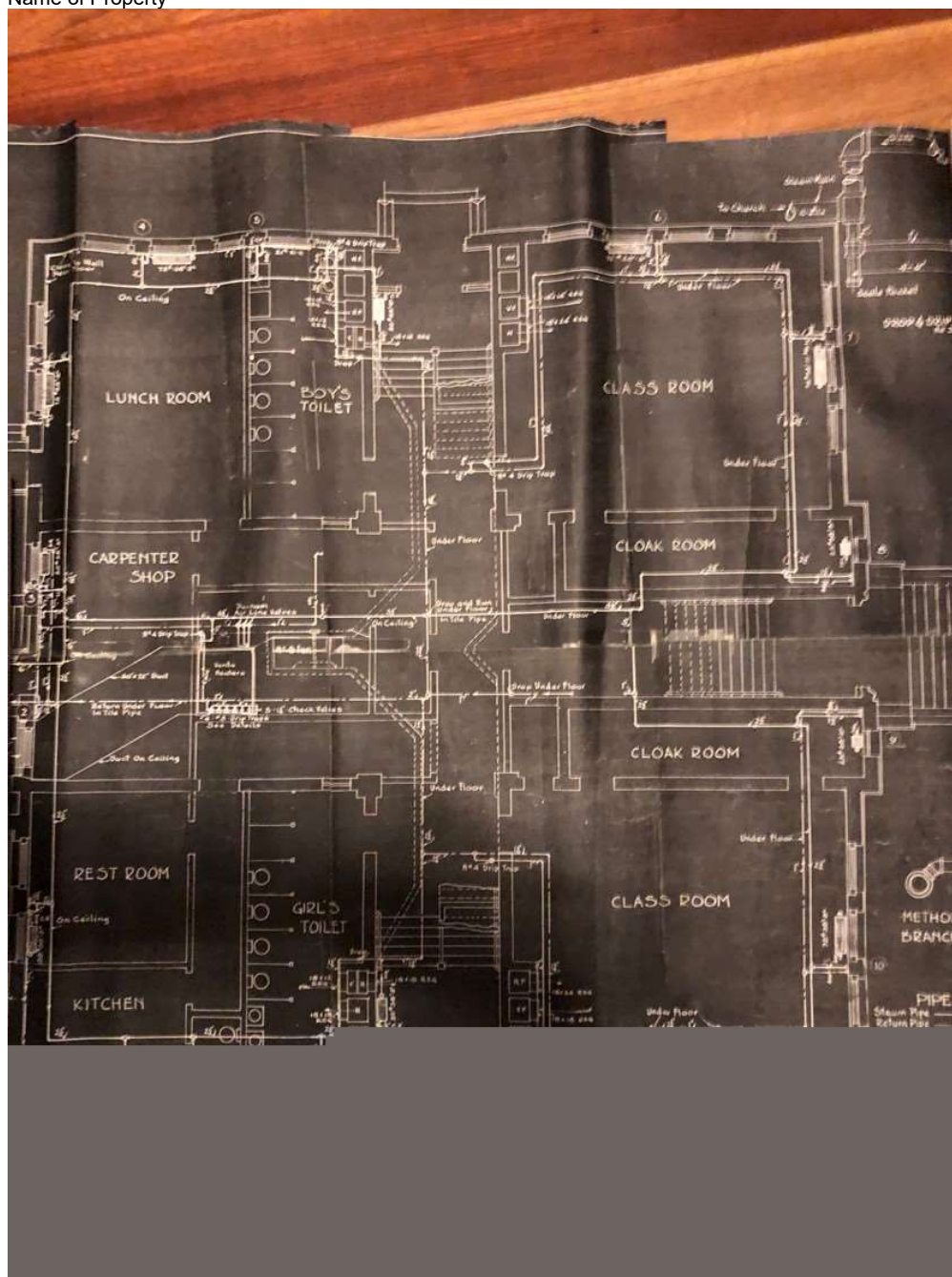
Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of Addition, 1918, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Name of Property

County and State



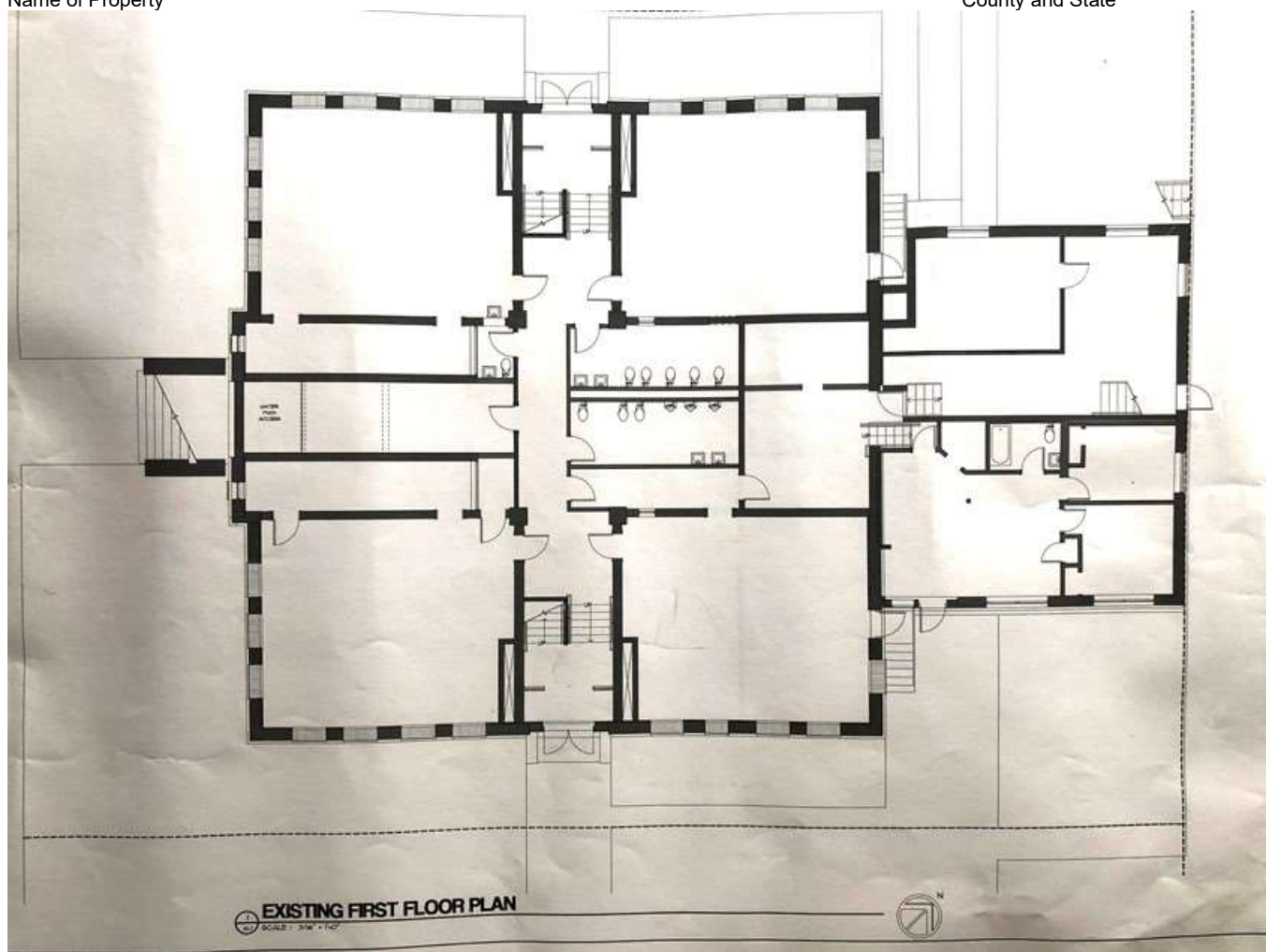
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of Basement, 1918, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State



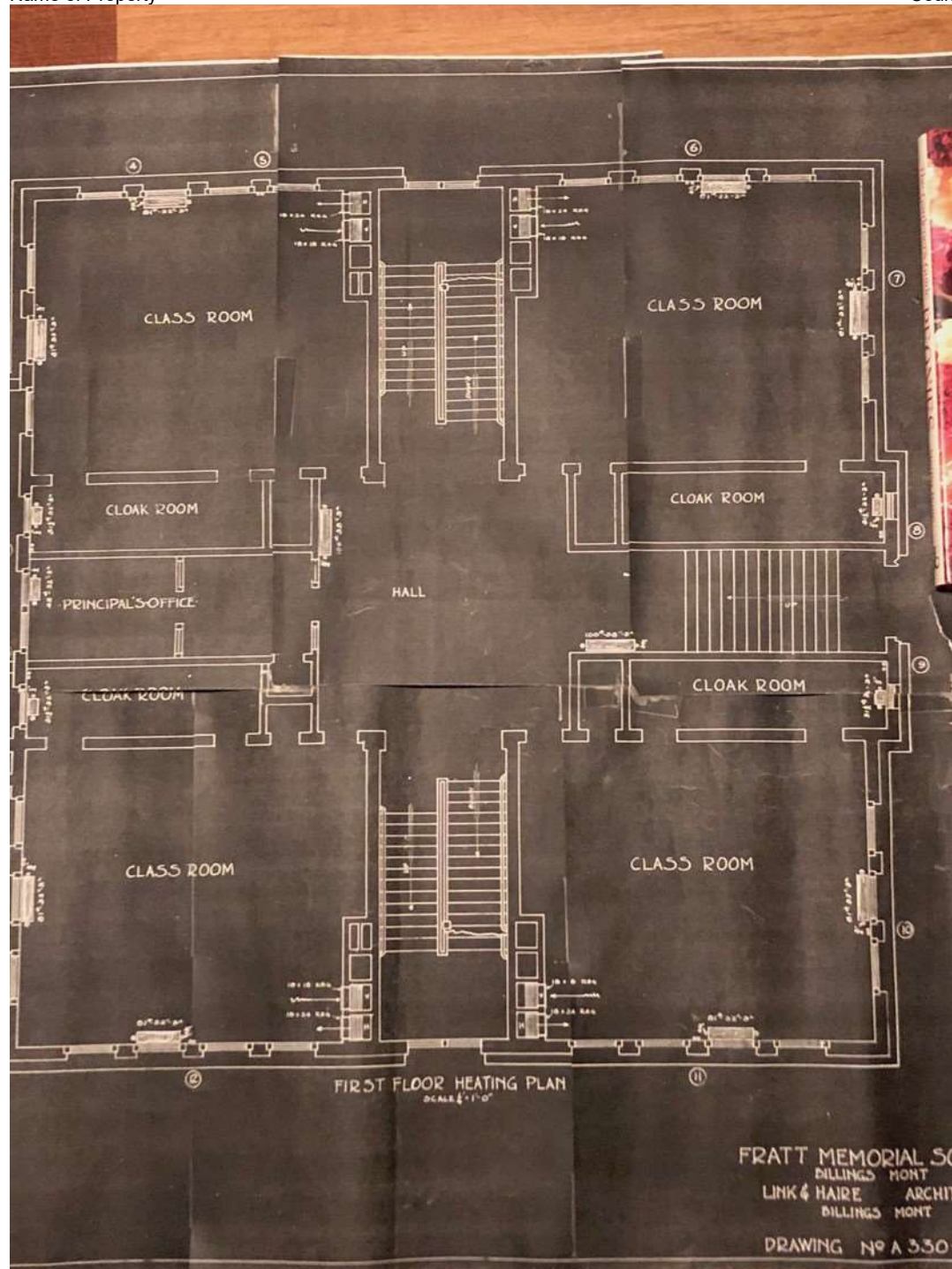
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of Basement, 2020, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State



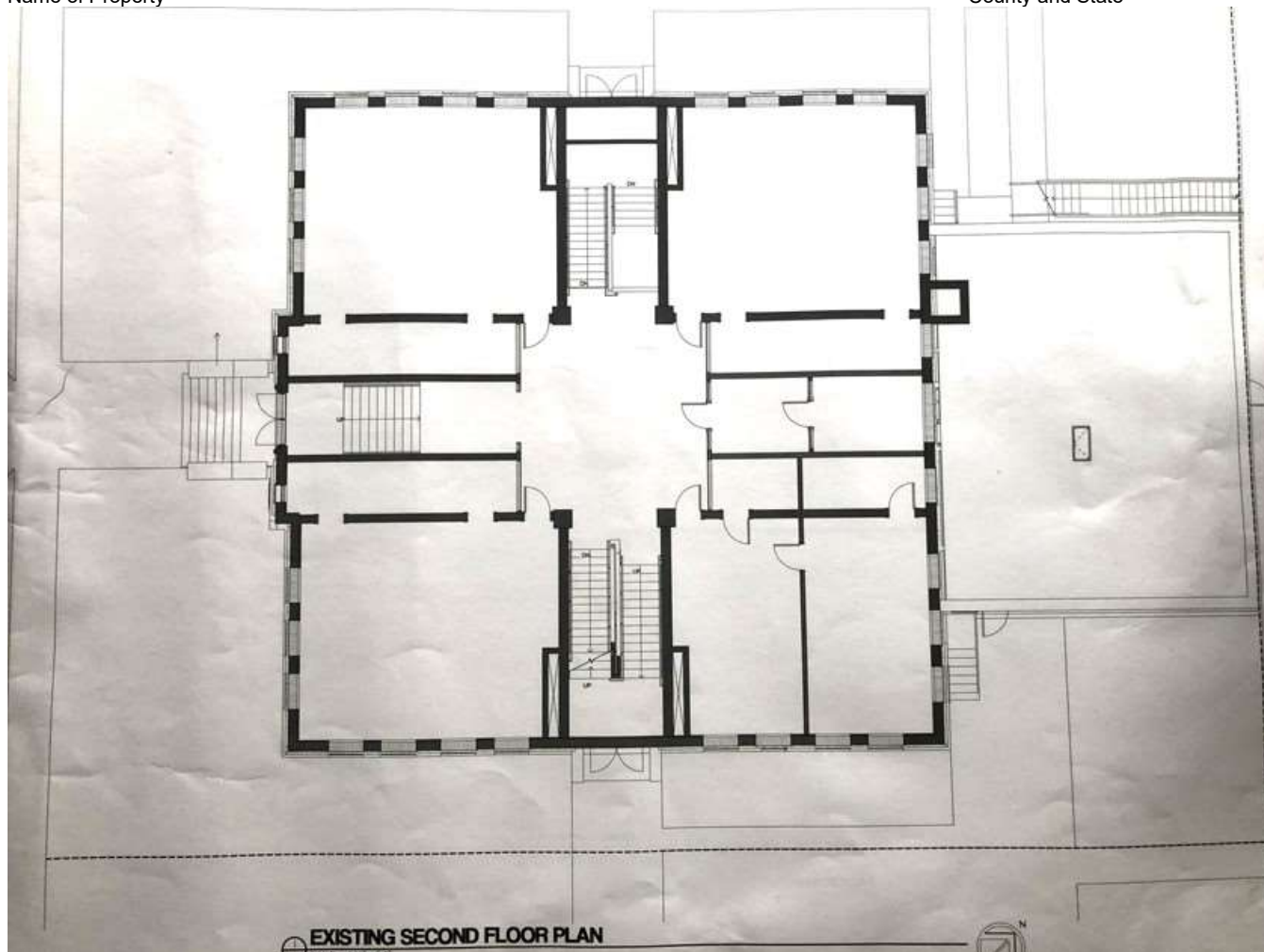
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of First floor, 1918, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

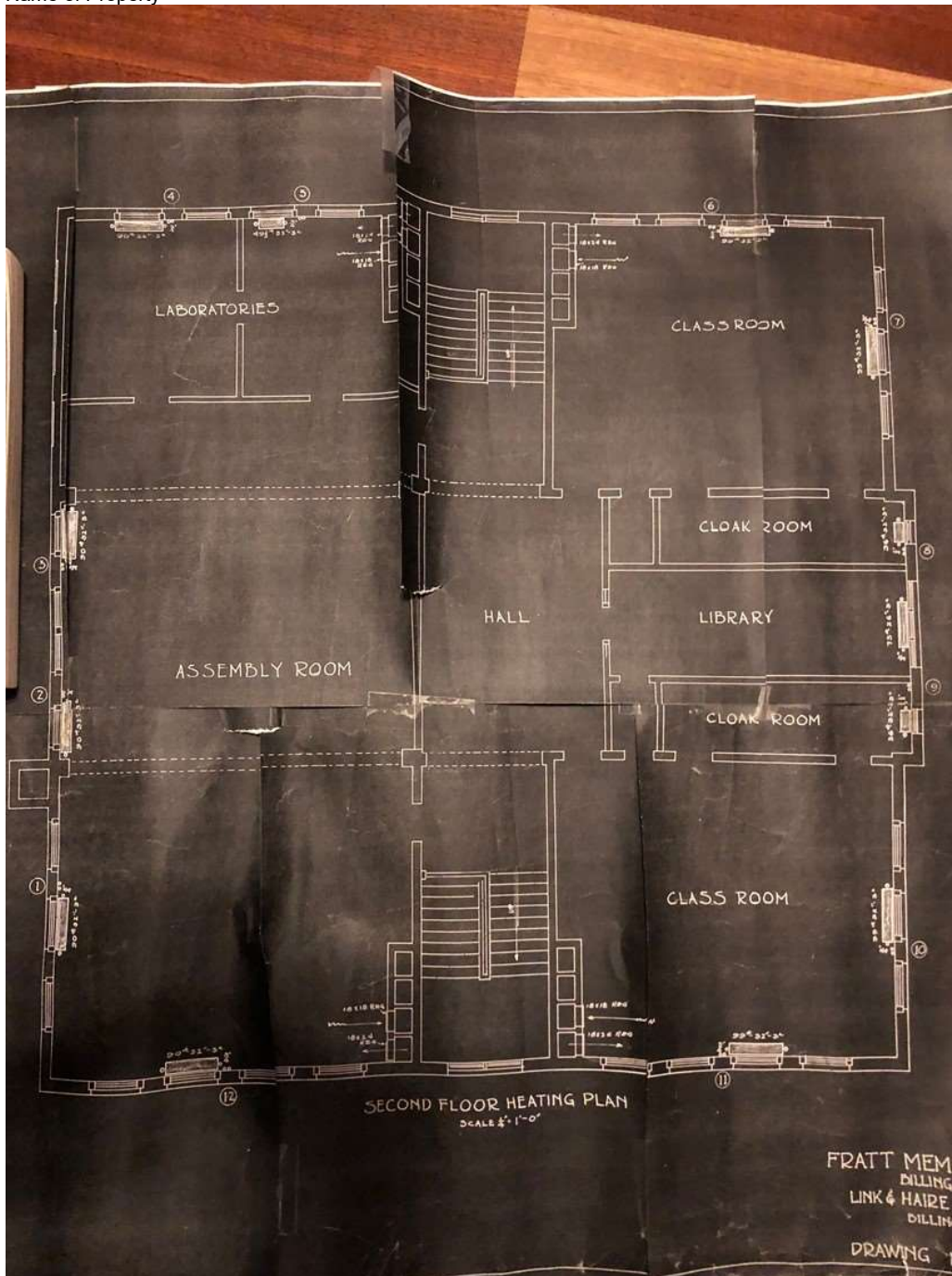
County and State



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of First floor, 2020, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School
Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT
County and State



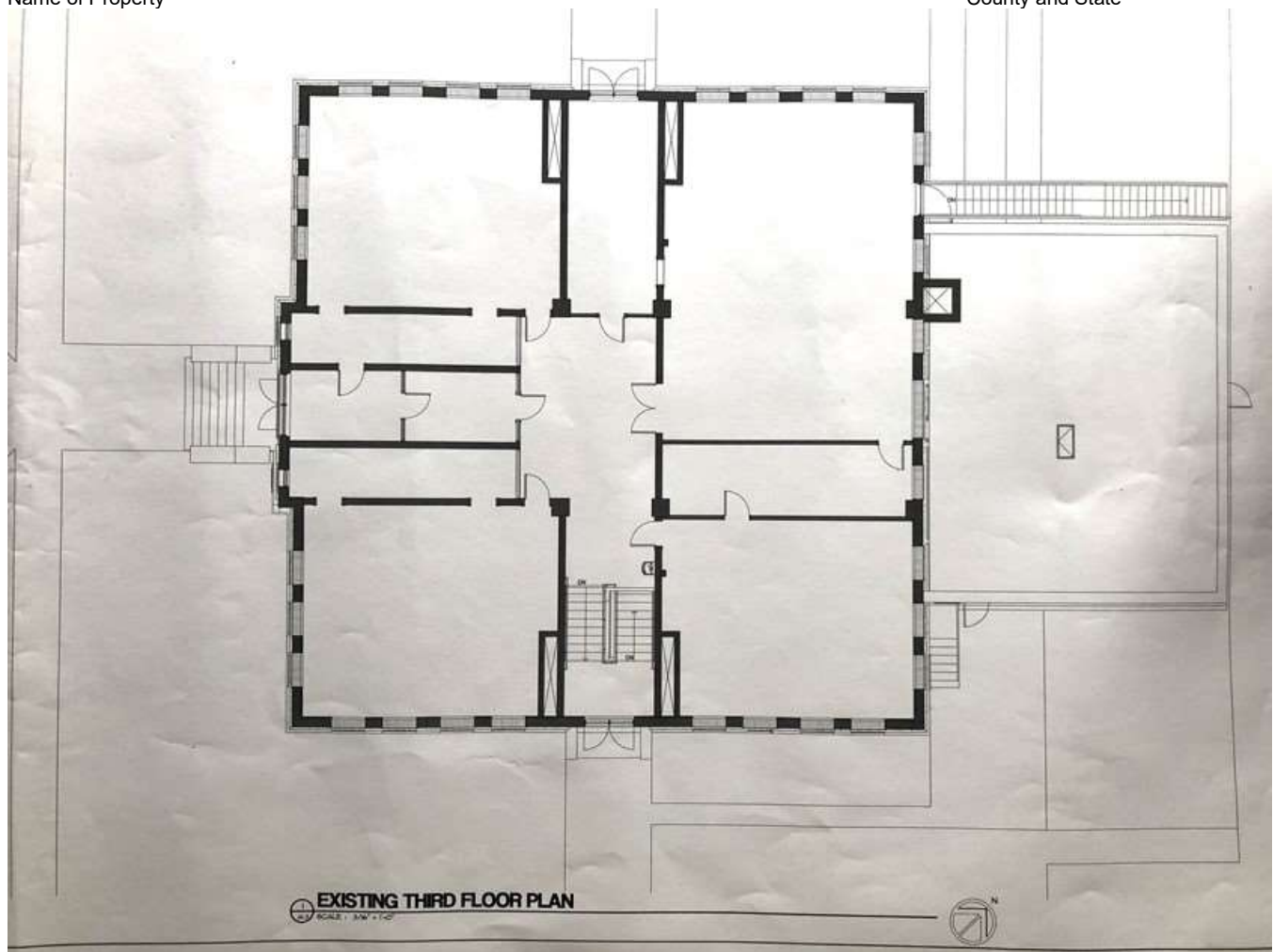
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of Second floor, 1918, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Name of Property

Yellowstone Co., MT

County and State



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Blueprints of Second floor, 2020, Courtesy of HGFA Architects, PLLC, Billings, MT.

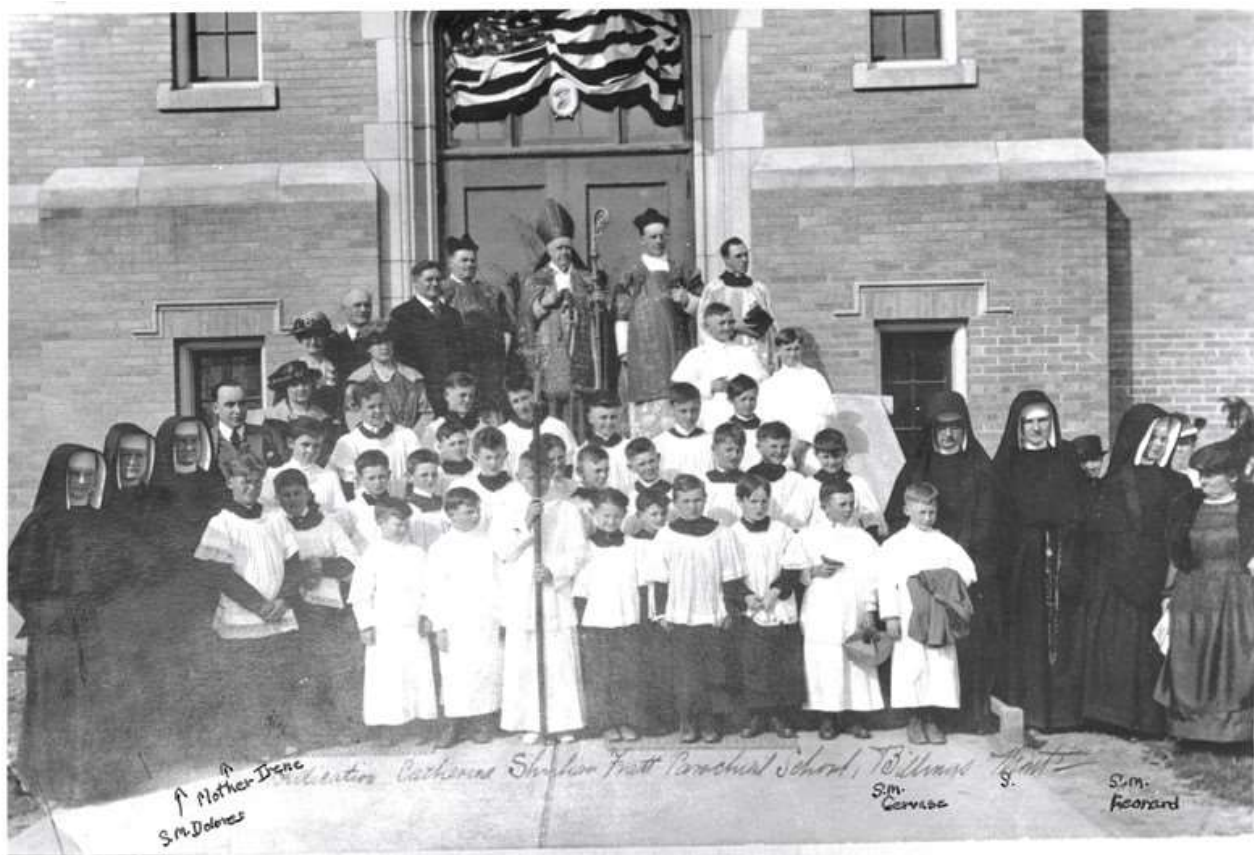
Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State

Historic Photos



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. Dedication of School, May 1920. Courtesy of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Archives.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. 1921 Graduation Class. Courtesy of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Archives.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School. 1958 School Ceremony. Courtesy of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Archives.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



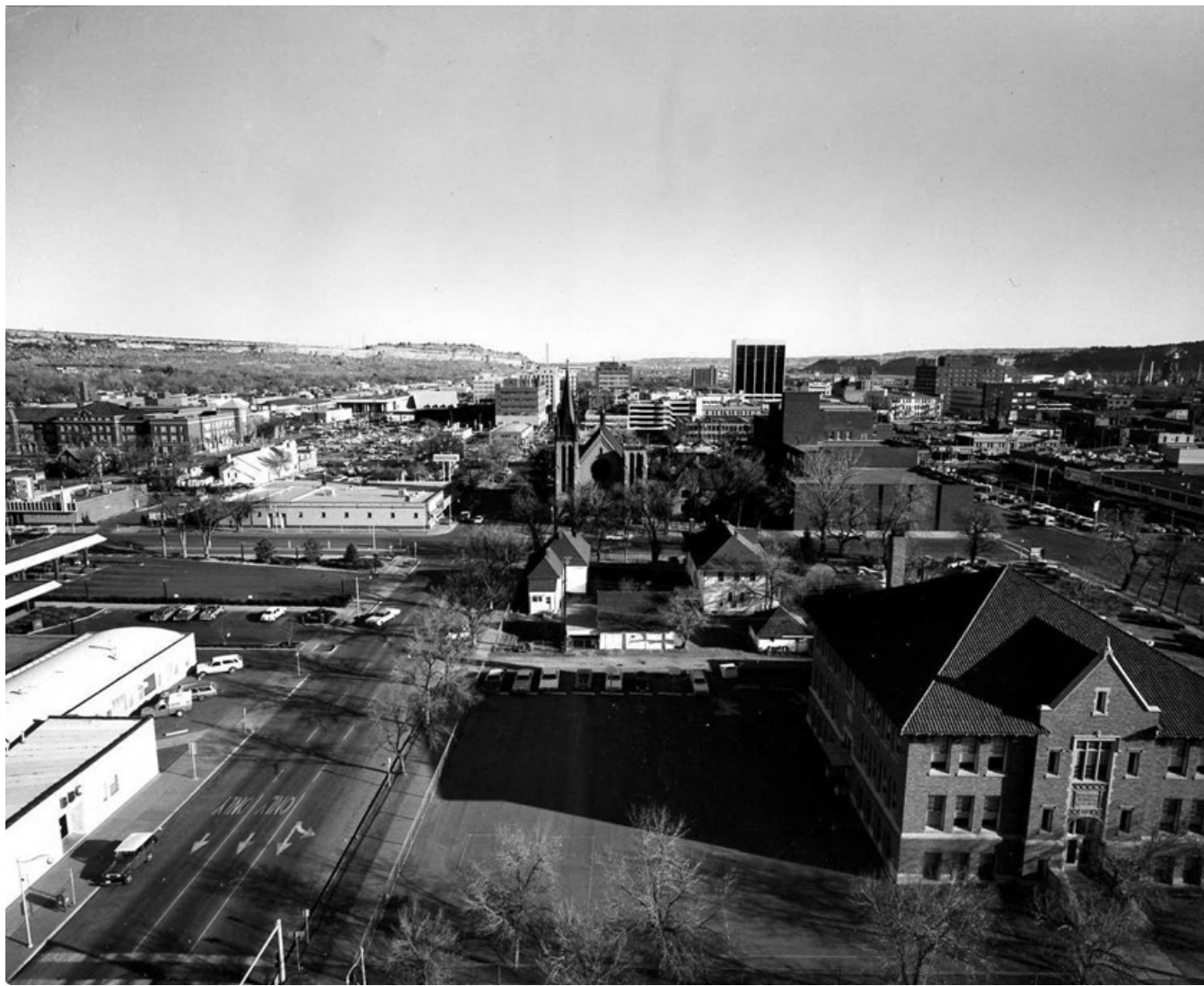
South and West elevations, circa 1964. Courtesy of Western Heritage Center.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



West and north elevations, view to the east, circa 1978. Courtesy of Western Heritage Center.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State

National Register Photographs

Photo Log

All Photographs:

Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: Jan-Feb 2020



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: North (left) and west (right) elevations, view to the southeast.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0001.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: West elevation, view to the east.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0002.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: North elevation, view to the south.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0003.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: East elevation, view to the west.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0004.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: South elevation, view to the north.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0005.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Addition, north elevation, view to the south.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0006.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Addition, south elevation, view to the north.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0007.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Interior Door.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0008.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Cloakroom, view to the east.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0009.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: First Floor Hall, view to the east.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0010.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: South entrance from interior, view to the south.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0011.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Vestibule, view to the east.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0012.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Garage north of school, south and east elevations, view to the northwest.

MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0013.

Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

Yellowstone Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property: Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School

City or Vicinity: Billings

County: Yellowstone

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: January/February 2020

Description of Photograph: Garage north of school, west and north elevations, view to the southeast.
MT_YellowstoneCounty_KateFrattMemorialParochialSchool_0014.